

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. In the pending Office Action, the Examiner has taken the position that the claims are drawn to two distinct inventions.

Specifically, the Examiner has grouped the claims as follows:

- I Claims 1-28
- II Claim 29-30.

Applicant provisionally elects with traverse the claims of group I (claims 1-28). Claims 29-30 are hereby provisionally withdrawn. If the Restriction Requirement is made final, Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims and others in one or more continuation/divisional applications.

In its Response of June 13, 2003, Applicant presented arguments as to why the claims, as grouped above, were not appropriate for restriction pursuant to the MPEP. For example, the invention of the respective groups are of similar scope that the prior art searches for each would be the same or substantially overlapping so as not to place a burden on the PTO by acting on both groups in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that the arguments presented in the June 13, 2003 Response be considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

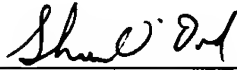
CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4255 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: 
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